

January 21, 2019



Dear Mayor and Municipal Council:

**Re: The Grey Bruce Health Unit Approach to Cannabis**

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The Grey Bruce Health Unit continues to encourage a public health approach of prevention and harm reduction when addressing cannabis within our community. This approach is respectful of an adult's individual choice but takes into consideration the public's health and safety as well as protecting youth by restricting their access to cannabis.

At the beginning of January, Public Health staff presented to both Bruce County and Grey County Councils regarding *Cannabis Retail Outlet Considerations*. These deputations allowed for open conversations regarding next steps for action. The Grey Bruce Health Unit expertise in this area can provide supportive guidance to work with you and your staff regarding the development of:

- Municipal Cannabis Policy Statements
- Enhanced smoking and vaping by-laws beyond the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*

As examples, we have attached a draft Cannabis Policy Statement template developed by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the City of Markham by-law to prohibit the smoking and vaping of cannabis.

After alcohol, cannabis is the most widely used substance in Grey Bruce (CCHS, 2015/16). We want to collaborate to provide consistent messaging regarding the harm reduction recommendations as outlined by [Canada's Lower Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines](#) such as "delay use past adolescence, start low go slow, don't mix drugs, and plan for a safe ride". We encourage municipal staff to link to the Grey Bruce Health Unit [website](#) for the latest evidence based cannabis resources.

Upon your request, public health staff are ready to provide consultation, presentations and /or updates for municipal staff and councillors. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Health Manager Lynda Bumstead at [l.bumstead@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:l.bumstead@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca) or 1-800-263-3456 at ext. 1463.

Working with you we can create healthy and safe communities for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Arra".

Ian Arra MD, MSc, FACPM, ABPM(D)  
Acting Medical Officer of Health  
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Encl.

*A healthier future for all.*

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